

***** TOP SECRET ***** COPY

FLASH
DE WTE #3776 310192Z
Z 061926Z NOV 73
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 25

TO PETER RODMAN FOR SEC. KISSINGER

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY WH32729

TOHAK 25

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

VIA WHITE HOUSE CHANNELS
DELIVER IN SEALED ENVELOPE, RETAIN NO FILE COPIES.
DESTROY ALL TAPES.

NOVEMBER 6, 1973

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

REPORT ON THE TUESDAY MORNING STAFF MEETING: PETER FLANIGAN DISCUSSED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TRADE BILL ALONG THE LINES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO YOU. I GAVE A QUICK RUN-DOWN ON THE CEASE-FIRE AND MOVEMENTS OF UNEF CONTINGENTS INTO THE AREA. HAIG THEN TURNED TO THE ENERGY SCENARIO. THERE WILL BE A CABINET MEETING AT 3:00 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON; A BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP MEETING AT 8:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY MORNING; A PRESS BRIEFING AT 6:00 P.M. AND THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT 7:00 P.M.

HAIG THEN TURNED TO THE WATERGATE SITUATION. HE OPINED THAT THE OPPOSITION HAD BEEN OUT TO GET AT THE TAPES BECAUSE THEY FIGURED THAT THEY CONTAINED INCRIMINATING INFORMATION. NOW THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED TO RELEASE THEM, THE CONCLUSION IS THAT THE TAPES ARE EXCULPATORY AND THUS THE ATTACK HAS TURNED TO TRYING TO FORCE THE PRESIDENT TO RESIGN. HAIG SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD NEVER RESIGN AND THAT WE ARE NOW MOVING TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM OF LEADERSHIP FOR THE PRESIDENT TO GET OUT IN FRONT ON THE ISSUE. THE FIRST PROBLEM IS THE OVERWORKED AND UNDERMANNED LEGAL STAFF OF THE PRESIDENT. STEPS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN TO ASSEMBLE A TOPNOTCH LEGAL STAFF WHICH CAN GET AT ALL THE INFORMATION AND LAY OUT IN SYSTEMATIC FASHION REFUTATION OF ALL THE CHARGES. AT THIS POINT, LAIRD INTERJECTED, IN HIGH DUDGEON, THAT IT WAS ABOUT TIME THAT THE FACTS WERE PUT OUT, AT LEAST TO THOSE TRYING TO DEFEND THE PRESIDENT. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN MADE TO LOOK LIKE A FOOL WHEN HE WENT ON TELEVISION TALKING ABOUT THIRTEEN TAPES WHEN THE PRESIDENT KNEW AT THAT TIME THAT THERE WERE NO THIRTEEN TAPES. HAIG REPLIED THAT THE

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

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PRESIDENT DID NOT KNOW THAT THE TWO TAPES WERE IN FACT MISSING UNTIL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26. SHULTZ CHIMED IN, SAYING THAT LAIRD WAS RIGHT, THAT HE WAS BEING SUBPOENED TO TESTIFY ON THE MILK CASE AND THAT WHEN HE ASKED FOR THE FACTS HE WAS TOLD THERE WEREN'T ANY. THE DISCUSSION BECAME FAIRLY HEATED FOR A FEW MINUTES, WITH HAIG ARGUING THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN A WEEK THAT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAS NOT BEEN SURPRISED BY SOMETHING NEW, THAT WE HAD NOT HAD THE LEGAL STAFF TO FERRET OUT ALL THE INFORMATION ON ALL THE CHARGES BEING MADE, AND THAT THAT WAS WHY WE ARE NOW ASSEMBLING AN OUTSTANDING LEGAL STAFF. LAIRD MADE ONE FINAL COMMENT, THAT OUR FRIENDS HAVE GOTTEN TO THE POINT THAT THEY DO NOT BELIEVE US. THE BASIC ISSUE IS CREDIBILITY AND HE SAID PERHAPS WE NEED A COMPLETELY NEW WHITE HOUSE STAFF. VIA WHITE HOUSE CHANNELS

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THERE WAS SOME SLIGHT DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE NEW HORRORS TO COME -- SUCH AS THE CRP TELLING GSA WHO SHOULD GET VARIOUS ENGINEERING CONTRACTS AND SOME PERSONNEL SHENANIGANS OF MALEK INVOLVING ESPECIALLY HUD AND SBA. HAIG CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THERE MAY BE ANOTHER BIG ONE BREWING BUT HE WOULD KNOW MORE IN A DAY OR SO.
WARM REGARDS.
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